

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-3, 7, 9, 12-13, 17, 19, 22-23, 27, and 29 are currently pending in the application. Claims 2, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19, 22, 27, and 29 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, and 31 have been cancelled.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 2-3, 7, 9, 12-13, 17, 19, 22-23, 27, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten the claims accordingly.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the claims.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

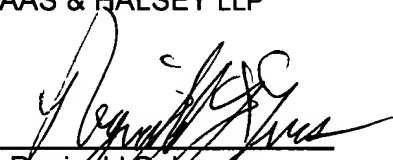
Respectfully submitted,

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10/25/06

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